



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
CALIFORNIA DIVISION  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724  
September 12, 2001

IN REPLY REFER TO  
HDA-CA  
File #: 1040.2  
Document #: 36737

Mr. Jeff Morales, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500  
For Jim Nicholas

Dear Mr. Morales:

**SUBJECT: SBCAG 2000/01-2002/03 FTIP Amendment 3**

We have completed our review of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) Amendment 3 to its 2000/01 – 2002/03 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) submitted by your letter dated July 27, 2001. The Amendment was adopted by SBCAG on June 21, 2001. This Amendment deletes a State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP) project in Santa Maria, and modifies two SHOPP projects, one near Carpinteria and one in Santa Maria.

In accordance with 23 CFR 450 we find that the amendment was developed based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134 and Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC 53). The changes made to the program by this amendment are exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed [40 CFR 93.126 and/or 93.127], or were considered as part of the conformity analysis for the current plan and program. Therefore, we find this FTIP conforms to the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

This letter constitutes joint FHWA and FTA approval for inclusion of the modifications proposed by SBCAG's Amendment 3, into the California 2000/01-2002/03 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). We are approving this amendment in accordance with the procedures outlined in the joint FHWA/FTA Memorandum of Understanding on single mode TIP amendments dated March 8, 1996.

Our review of the amendment indicated that the project data for the proposed program modifications have not been entered into the California Transportation Improvement Program System (CTIPS) database. Our approval of the State's FY 2000/01 to 2002/03 FSTIP on October 6, 2000, noted the importance of the California Department of Transportation continuing to work with the transportation planning agencies to ensure that CTIPS reflect complete and accurate data on programmed projects. We continue to believe that CTIPS, when used properly,

offers a practical and effective programming tool for streamlining the programming process and enhancing the development and dissemination of program information. We recognize that unusual circumstances may occasionally arise that prohibit the entry of program data into the CTIPS database prior to the FSTIP modification request, however, we would expect the processing of amendments under these circumstances to be the exception rather than the rule. We encourage you to share our concerns regarding the lack of project information in CTIPS for these FSTIP amendments with the Santa Barbara Association of Governments. To minimize delays in the FSTIP Amendment approval process in those instances where the project data has not been entered into CTIPS, we encourage both Caltrans and the responsible regional planning agency to describe, in the request for the approval of the amendment, the circumstances that have prohibited the project data entry into the CTIPS database.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Dennis A.Scovill*  
For  
Michael G. Ritchie  
Division Administrator

cc:

SBCAG FTIP Binder w/ Caltrans Letter  
FSTIP Binder

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